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## One week to save the euro



**French President Nicolas Sarkozy (L) German Chancellor Angela Merkel (R)**

PARIS (AFP) - One way or another, this is crunch week for the euro. By the end of the EU summit on Friday, European voters and markets will know how their leaders plan to save the single currency bloc.

The outlines of a plan have begun to emerge, but details will be thrashed out over a perilous week of high-wire economic diplomacy, starting today, when Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel comes back to Paris.

She and French President Nicolas Sarkozy have vowed to unveil proposed EU treaty changes to create what Merkel has dubbed a "European fiscal

union with strict rules" and the French leader calls "true economic government."

If the proposed reforms are seen as a credible guarantee that eurozone governments will at last bring their deficits under control, European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi has suggested "that other elements might follow".

This has been taken as a signal the ECB might intervene to protect European banks from any credit crunch and to buy bonds to rein in soaring interest rates on government borrowing, perhaps acting in concert with the IMF.

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## Stern Motors stopping traffic with their annual year-end Car Extravaganza



Lela the puppy has picked out the car she likes at Jolly Holdings Car Extravaganza last Saturday. (see story on pg 4)

## Italy backs urgent measures to avoid bankruptcy

ROME (AFP) - Italy's cabinet on Sunday adopted a package of tax hikes, budget cuts and pension reforms worth 20 billion euros (\$27 billion) in a rush to avoid a bankruptcy that threatens to bring down the eurozone.

"This is a decree to save Italy," Prime Minister Mario Monti said at a press conference after the cabinet meeting, adding: "This is a moment in which Italy risks being responsible for helping to drag down the economy of Europe."

He also warned that Italians had to make "sacrifices" and said he was renouncing his own salary as prime minister in a gesture of solidarity.

The three-year package includes a controversial pension reform that will increase the minimum pension age for women to 62 starting next year and fall into line with men by 2018, by which time both will retire at 66.

The number of years that men have to pay contributions to receive their full pensions will also be increased from the current level of 40 to 42.

Welfare Minister Elsa Fornero, whose proposals have already been slammed by Italy's main trade unions, broke down in tears as she outlined the changes.

The package also increases taxes on housing and luxury items and raises value-added tax -- which has already been raised by one percentage point this year -- by two percentage points to 23 percent from the second quarter of 2012.

Final approval of the reforms in parliament is expected before Christmas.

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## Aruba welcomes back magically motivational Chad Juros



**Chad happy to be back and appreciating some local art**

Aruba is again greatly honored to welcome back young magician Chad Juros, by invitation of the island's Prime Minister Mike Eman, as a special performer/motivational speaker for the Happy Community Conference which begins tomorrow, December 6. Chad will be bringing his special message, spiced with some delightful magic, to workshop partici-

pants beginning at 2:30 PM the Renaissance Convention Center in Oranjestad along with Dutch international soccer player Edgar Davids. He will speak and perform at the YMCA in San Nicolas on Thursday. Interested parties can register at the conference's website: <http://www.happycommunity.aw>

Chad and his mother,

Penny, together founded the Spread the Magic Foundation in answer to his father's dying wish. The story of Chad, his mother, and their family is a tragic but inspiring tale of triumph over tragedy and with a positive attitude, overcoming unimaginable obstacles.

The Juros family faced the worst nightmare of any family; when Chad was 3 years old he was diagnosed with an extremely aggressive form of leukemia with little chance of survival. Miraculously, he went into remission, only to have a serious relapse 7 years later. After months at his bedside and dangerous, experimental treatments, his parents were overjoyed to have him return home with a positive prognosis.

Unfortunately, his father David collapsed soon after with an inoperable brain tumor, and died within 18 months. All during Chad's time in the hospital, it was his father who used magic to distract his son through the ordeal of painful tests and boring months in bed; magic became Chad's passion, and he uses it to fulfill his father's dying wish by performing regularly in fundraising benefits for many worthy causes.

The full, detailed story by THE MORNING NEWS reporter Rosalie Klein appeared in THE NEWS in 2006, and can be read on Chad's Spread the Magic website: <http://www.spreadthemagic.org/aruba.html>

Chad is back, 5 years older and with new insights gained over the past years.

Magic is still his main interest, but he has realistically pursued another passion. He is graduating from Richard Stockton College in New Jersey with a degree in Visual Arts and Graphic Design, and will be going for his teaching certificate with an eye towards the elementary grades. He performs magic shows for the Philadelphia Flyers pro hockey team regularly and the Eagles, who have the Fight for Leukemia Foundation, which raises funds for

scholarships and treatment for kids with leukemia. They recently presented Chad with an award for his contributions towards their cause. Chad estimates he does close to 150 shows or more per year to assist various foundations.

Chad combines his magic with his own personal story, and labels himself a Magical Motivational Speaker.

**Continue on pg 5**



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## Dutch Kingdom Consulates meet Aruban Minister and learn of Aruba's "Green Gateway"

The government of Aruba continues to promote Aruba's economic plans in an effort to attract international investors to the island. In this endeavor, diplomatic representatives of the Dutch Kingdom around the world are playing an important role in helping to attract international investors.

During her recent trip to New Orleans, Aruba's Minister Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar met with Constance Willems, Honorary Consul of the Dutch Kingdom in New Orleans, and Geert Visser, Honorary Consul of the Dutch Kingdom in Houston,



Texas. Both consul members were attending 'The International Work Boat Show' and they invited Aruba's Minister to the event.

The International Work Boat Show is the largest

construct boats, offer services and operate boats. There are usually more than 13 thousand visitors from around the world at this event in New Orleans.

Holland has a vested inter-

est in this segment of the market and was present with a massive booth bearing the name "Holland Maritime." Many Dutch companies working in the maritime market participated in the event. Everyone in attendance, personnel working in the maritime field, as well as clients seeking information, had an opportunity to talk with the Minister and receive information about Aruba.

Holland is the 3rd largest investor in the United States; as such there are numerous Dutch companies that have great interest in the various US States. It is here that the

Aruban government attempts to capitalize and convince companies to cash in on the benefits of investing in Aruba. Aruba's geographic position is extremely advantageous to companies wishing to connect with Europe and the United States and Latin America.

Photo depict Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar with the Honorary Consul of the Dutch Kingdom in New Orleans. The Minister also met the executive of the economic department of the Dutch Kingdom Consul in Miami. Each was particularly interested in Aruba.



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## Oldest Japanese person dies, 115 years-old

TOKYO, (AFP) - Japan's oldest person, Chiyono Hasegawa, died on Friday aged 115, the governor of Saga prefecture said.

Hasegawa was born Nov. 20, 1896.

"Ms Chiyono Hasegawa was the pride, not only of Saga residents, but also of the Japanese public," Saga governor Yasushi Furukawa said in a statement.

Japan's oldest person is now a man, 114-year-old Jirouemon Kimura, who was born April 19, 1897. Kimura is recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's oldest living man.

Besse Cooper of Monroe, Georgia, in the United States, is listed by Guinness as the world's oldest person, at 115. She was born Aug. 26, 1896.

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# Stern Motors stopping traffic with their annual year-end Car Extravaganza



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Everyone knows that the end of the year is the time to get great deals on the remaining inventory of autos, so islanders flocked to Stern Motors in Tanki Leendert this past Saturday to take advantage of great deals on a diversity of makes and models

from Jolly Holding, the distributorship's parent company. As operators of Ultimate Automobiles in Dakota and Topcar in Oranjestad, they are the exclusive dealerships for Chevrolet, BMW, Cooper Mini, Landrover, Nissan and Suzuki on

Aruba, so shoppers had quite an inventory of new and used cars to look over and select their next automobile.

The end of the year Car Extravaganza is conducted with festive island flair; local seasonal singing groups, called Gaita Bands, abound,

refreshments are offered, and every bank in Aruba has a desk to assist potential car owners in acquiring the vehicle of their dreams, many offering special interest rates for the occasion.

The excitement of having a new car for Christmas made the event a happy afternoon for many Aruban families, as Jolly Holding helped to make it a very jolly holiday season indeed!

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## Aruba welcomes back magically motivational Chad Juros

Continued from pg 2



Chad with PM Eman in 2006

"My mission for the foundation is to continue spreading the magic in hopes that everyone can find the magic in their life.

Particularly for young people who become so discouraged at times. Whatever it might be: soccer, video

games, movies, find that one thing that keeps your mind focused and positive. Sports are great, but there are other great outlets that can be positive and help one learn teamwork and leadership."

Penny eventually went on to meet and marry a

wonderful man. All during her ordeal when she was losing her husband, David, and for sometime after, she poured out her emotions in nightly e-mails to him as he lay in a coma, which eventually were published with their story as "Abracadabra: Cherish Yesterday, Dream

Tomorrow, Live Today," and available in paperback on amazon.com.

Chad first came to PM Eman's attention when he saw him on Cris Angel's Mindfreak, and Chad has performed at the White House during their annual Easter Egg Roll for kids.

Since his last visit, he has jazzed up his act with new illusions and a more mature image, but all ages are certain to be entranced by The Magic of Chad Juros, which encompasses much more than simple tricks, but is a meaningful life lesson.



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## International News

# Gingrich takes Republican lead in presidential race



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Former House speaker Newt Gingrich emerged Sunday as the new leader of the race for the Republican presidential nomination, well positioned to scoop up conservative support of fallen Tea Party favorite Herman Cain.

Cain's withdrawal amid allegations of sexual misconduct has set off a scramble among Republicans vying to run against President Barack Obama in 2012, with analysts tipping Gingrich as the most likely beneficiary of the narrowing field.

"I have to tell you I think a lot of people inside the Beltway and outside the Beltway woke up today to a very different political environment and one in which Newt Gingrich is very much for real," Robert Gibbs, Obama's former spokesman, said on CBS' Face the Nation.

Defying the odds, Gingrich

has come back from near collapse to surge past default-frontrunner Mitt Romney in recent weeks as Cain fought off the sexual misconduct allegations that finally forced his withdrawal from the race on Saturday.

With the first 2012 election contest to be held in Iowa in less than a month's time, a new poll made public Saturday by The Des Moines Register showed Gingrich to be the clear front-runner with 25 percent support, as Romney slipped to third place.

The Register noted that the former speaker's rise in Iowa has been a mirror image of Cain's fall, and that the poll found that more respondents picked Gingrich as their second choice than any other candidate.

Who wins Cain's Tea Party supporters, a volatile group who has shifted allegiances from one candidate to another throughout the race, remains unclear, and Cain himself has so far made no endorsements.

Candidates lost no time in presenting themselves as the former pizza executive's natural heir, while brandishing their conservative credentials.

"I think the dynamic is changing all the time in this

race. It is almost like Wall Street," Michele Bachmann, an early Tea Party favorite who quickly faded but now hopes to win back their support despite a fourth place showing in the Iowa poll.

But The Des Moines Register poll of Republicans likely to take part in the Iowa caucuses January 3 suggests the big beneficiary of Cain's exit has been Gingrich, whose strong debate performances, as others stumbled, have given his campaign a second life.

*continues on page 7*



**GERMANY, Koblenz am Rhein** : Photographers take pictures of a difused blockbuster bomb from World War II found in the River Rhine in the western German city of Koblenz on December 4, 2011. The 1.8-tonne British bomb was discovered in the River Rhine after water levels fell. People living within a 1.8-kilometre (one-mile) radius of the site were ordered to leave their homes by 0800 GMT, the fire service said. **AFP PHOTO**

## Chavez wants Chile, Cuba to help lead new Americas bloc

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Saturday urged Chile and Cuba to join him in a "troika" of core nations at the forefront of a new Americas bloc that excludes the United States and Canada.

"The troika has to immediately assume responsibility," said Chavez, the driving force behind the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) on the second and closing day of its inaugural meeting.

But the fledgling bloc was missing two of its biggest members -- Argentina and Brazil, whose presidents Cristina Kirchner and Dilma Rousseff both left early on Saturday, with the latter appearing cool on the new grouping's aims.

"I think we will have to let it (the CELAC) operate for some time" before the unknowns about its operations are ironed out, Brazilian Foreign Minister Jose Antonio Simoes told a press conference Friday.

If Brazil's support is a bit

measured, part of the reason may be that Latin America's most populous nation and its new economic and political heavyweight, already leads its own regional bloc, the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR).

UNASUR, made up of Brazil and 11 of its allies, has a smaller scope than the CELAC or the Organization of American States (OAS), but there could be some doubling up in UNASUR and CELAC goals and operations.

Led by Chavez, CELAC delegates gathered for two days from Friday at a military fort for the meeting of an alliance of 33 countries.

The CELAC grouping was proposed by Latin American leaders in February 2010 in Mexico, more than 60 years after the start of the OAS, which is based in Washington and which excludes communist Cuba.

CELAC nations signed a series of documents, one of which included a clause on "the defense of democracy and constitutional order."

They also voiced support for Argentina's claim for the disputed Falkland islands, and called on the United States to end economic sanctions against Cuba, the only one-party Communist regime in the Americas.

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## International News

### Islamist sweep in Egypt polls worries Israel

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israeli officials expressed concern on Sunday over the future of ties with Cairo after Islamists claimed an overwhelming victory in the initial stage of Egypt's first post-revolution elections.

"We are worried, I hope that democracy will prevail in Egypt and that the country won't become an extremist Islamist state because that would put the whole region in danger," Finance Minister Yuval Steinitz told Israel public radio.

The results of the first part of the Egyptian elections, made official on Sunday, showed Islamists sweeping 65 percent of the vote.

The figures put the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party in the lead, as expected, but also showed the Salafist hardline Islamists netting a surprise 25 percent of the vote.

The reaction in the Israeli press was clear: "It's even worse than expected," one security agency official told the top-selling Yediot Aharonot.

"What was once a danger has become a threat," the newspaper itself commented.

An Israeli government official told AFP that the emerging election results vindicated the Jewish state's cautious approach to the Arab Spring of revolts against autocratic rulers.

The success of Islamist candidates, many with unabashedly anti-Israeli platforms, showed it was naive to hold Israel responsible for its isolation, as US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta suggested on Friday, he argued.

Panetta said the Jewish state needed to do more to "mend fences" with former al-

lies like Turkey and called on Israel to "just get to the damn table" when it came to peace talks with the Palestinians.

But the Israeli official's reaction said "those who attribute our isolation to the absence of negotiations with the Palestinians lack insight."

"Even if there were negotiations with the Palestinians, that would not at all affect the hostility and the hate the Islamists and other Salafists feel for us," he said.

Despite the concerns, Israeli officials have been at pains to say that their landmark 1979 peace deal with Egypt should not be considered at risk.

Yitzhak Levanon, the outgoing Israeli ambassador to Cairo, said Sunday that he could not foresee "in coming months" any scrapping of the deal which made Egypt the first Arab state to make peace with Israel.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the treaty remains in the interest of Egypt as well as of its neighbours.

"We hope that any government to be formed in Egypt will recognise the importance of keeping the peace treaty with Israel, as a value of its own and as a foundation to the financial and security stability of the region," he said on Sunday.

But Israeli officials say they do not expect to see Washington sanction Egypt by freezing aid to Cairo if the next government is formed by Islamist parties.

The results of the first phase of Egypt's vote were, however, warmly welcomed by the Hamas movement, a Palestinian Islamist group born of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood.

### Obama condolences for Pakistan airstrike deaths

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama on Sunday expressed condolences to Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari for the deaths last month of 24 Pakistani troops, saying the NATO airstrikes that killed them were not a "deliberate attack."

Obama "made clear that this regrettable incident was not a deliberate attack on Pakistan and reiterated the United States' strong commitment to a full investigation," the statement said.

Islamabad has so far refused to take part in a US investigation into the November 26 air strikes on the Afghan border.

But the White House said Obama and Zardari nonetheless "reaffirmed their commit-

ment to the US-Pakistan bilateral relationship, which is critical to the security of both nations, and they agreed to stay in close touch."

In the wake of the strikes, Pakistan decided not to take part in the Bonn Conference on the future of Afghanistan that opens Monday -- a decision which, together with the Taliban's boycott, has cast the event's usefulness into doubt.

Pakistan has also shut down NATO's vital supply line into Afghanistan and ordered American personnel to leave Shamsi air base.

The base is widely understood to have been a hub for the covert CIA drone war on Taliban and Al-Qaeda commanders in Pakistan's troubled border areas with Afghanistan.

### Gingrich.... continues from page 6

The poll found that 43 percent of the respondents chose Gingrich as its first or second choice, suggesting that his campaign has greater room to gain support than others in the field.

Romney, who has run consistently at or near the front of the field, slipped to third place at 16 percent, a big drop from a month earlier when the former Massachusetts governor stood at 23 percent in the key midwestern state.

Romney has failed so far to catch fire with the Republican base, which has remained cool to a candidate who has flipped positions on hot button issues like health care and abortion.

Rounding out the field, Texas governor Rick Perry and former Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum each garnered six percent support, and former US ambassador to China Jon Huntsman took two percent.

### Putin party support wanes in Russia vote

MOSCOW (AFP) - Vladimir Putin's ruling party suffered a surprise drop in support Sunday in legislative elections seen as a test of the Russian strongman's popularity ahead of his planned return to the Kremlin.

United Russia was on course to win but with less than half the votes, exit polls and initial results based on around a fifth of the count showed, in an unexpected blow to its supreme dominance of Russian politics.

The decline in its support came after an election marred by allegations the authorities had committed major violations to ensure the party hung on to an overwhelming parliamentary majority.

United Russia won 45.9 percent of the vote, based on over 17 percent of the precincts reporting, the central election commission said. The

Communist Party was second with 20.7 percent, the commission added.

The results mark a major reverse from the last parliamentary elections in 2007 when United Russia secured a landslide majority of 64.3 per-

cent and won 315 seats in the 450 seat State Duma.

Standing alongside President Dmitry Medvedev in a live televised address, Putin put a brave face on the results and made no specific mention of the fall in support.



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## Health & Living

### Letting loose at lunchtime, Swedes disco dance



STOCKHOLM(AFP) - Eva Bjoerkman munches on a sandwich, chats with colleagues, and then twirls and bounces to the rhythm at "Lunch Beat", a growing movement in Sweden mixing a work break with a bit of disco fever.

"This is so much fun!" the 28-year-old recruitment worker shouts above the pulsating, electronic beat.

"It is just great to get away from the computer, and really fun to go dancing in the middle of the day," she says, nodding to the hundreds around her jerking and jumping to the music, colourful pearls of strobe light gliding across their faces.

Some have come to get out of the office for awhile, others just for the fun of it.

Whatever the reason, the Lunch Beat phenomenon has rapidly swept across Sweden since 28-year-old Molly Raenge, a concept and project developer, came up with the idea in early 2010.

"I love to work and I love to go out dancing, but was getting frustrated that my two passions were not always compatible," she tells AFP.

"So I began thinking: What happens if you combine the two?"

It started off small in May last year, with just 14 people in a garage "somewhere under Stockholm," Raenge says.

She had wanted to create some kind of "urban fight club aesthetic," but received imme-

diated positive feedback and realised her creation might grow beyond the confines of a secretive, underground movement.

At a recent event held at Stockholm's Culture House in the heart of the city, more than 300 people cram into a large dark room. Only the thin slivers of daylight peeking through the blackout curtains and the absent odour of stale beer betray the authentic nightclub feel.

The Culture House has become a favourite venue for the happenings that now take place about once a month in Stockholm, but the aim is to hold them in alternate locations. An event planned for January will be held for instance in a museum in the basement of the royal palace.

Lunch Beat events have also popped up in about 10 other Swedish towns to date, one has been held in Belgrade and another is planned for Bogota.

Anyone can arrange a Lunch Beat event as long as they adhere to the manifesto posted on the lunchbeat.org website, which stipulates that everyone must dance, the event must be non-profit and held for exactly one hour at lunchtime during the work week, and food must be provided.

When the doors open at noon, people of all ages and occupations flood in, purchasing their 100-kronor (11 euros, \$15 dollars) tickets before making a beeline for a counter

covered with baskets of bananas, pitchers of water and plastic cups.

The bananas and water are free, but to get the wrapped lunch patrons need to swap in their entrance ticket. In the beginning salads were offered but lettuce flew on the dance floor so today's meal is a sourdough baguette filled with baked veggies.

### Health Tip: Managing Diabetes While Under Stress

-- Managing diabetes can be tough enough, but the challenge is even greater when you're under stress.

The American Diabetes Association says possible impacts of stress on diabetes management include the risks of:

- A sudden, dramatic rise in blood glucose levels.
- Strong negative emotions.
- Difficulty making decisions or thinking clearly.
- Compulsive eating or making unhealthy food choices.
- Significant strain on the heart and circulatory system.

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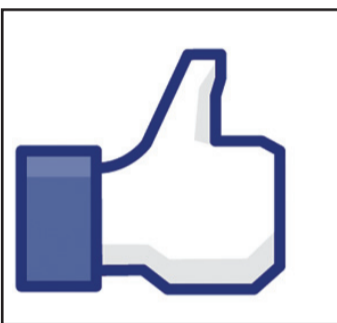


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## Sci-Tech

# Facebook 'likes' New York high-tech scene



NEW YORK (AFP)- New York City is already the US capital of advertising, fashion, finance and media. Now it wants to be its high-tech center too.

The Big Apple's ambition to rival Silicon Valley with its own Silicon Alley received a big boost when Facebook announced that it will open an engineering office next year in New York, its first outside the West Coast.

The plan was unveiled at Facebook's Madison Avenue

offices during an event attended by Facebook chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, New York Senator Charles Schumer and other top officials.

Sandberg said establishing its first engineering presence outside the West Coast was a "big step" for Facebook, "one we would take only if we found the right combination of talent and community support."

New York may not yet be able to lay claim to the high-tech crown held by Silicon Valley -- home to Apple, Google, Hewlett-Packard, Intel and Oracle, to name just a few -- but it does have a flourishing tech scene of its own.

Major Internet companies such as Barry Diller's IAC have their headquarters here

and the city has given birth to a number of successful Internet startups including Etsy, Foursquare, Gilt and Tumblr.

Online music sensation Spotify selected New York as the base for its US operations after launching in the United States in July.

Mike Schroepfer, Facebook's vice president of engineering, said New York will become an increasingly attractive destination as the high-tech scene here grows.

As part of his plan to expand New York's tech industry, Bloomberg has offered unused land belonging to the city to a university that pledges to build an engineering and applied sciences campus.

California's Stanford University, breeding ground for many of the Internet stars of Silicon Valley, is among the seven candidate schools.

# Australia's ruling party overturns India uranium ban

SYDNEY (AFP) - Australia's ruling Labor party voted Sunday to lift a long-standing ban on exporting uranium to India after a passionate debate about nuclear weapons and reactor safety following Japan's quake crisis.

Labor passed Prime Minister Julia Gillard's proposal with 206 votes to 185, reversing a decades-old policy excluding New Delhi from Australia's uranium trade because it is not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Gillard argued that it was neither rational nor intellectually defensible to sell uranium to rising powers such as China and not to India, "the world's largest democracy" and a fast-growing nation of increasing global clout.

Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd warned that India would

need to meet "onerous" conditions before trade could begin and said it would be "a very long, detailed and, I think, tough negotiation."

Although Australia does not use nuclear power, it is the world's third-ranking uranium producer behind Kazakhstan and Canada, exporting 9,600 tonnes of oxide concentrate each year worth more than Aus\$1.1 billion (\$1.1 billion).

It also has the world's largest reserves of uranium, holding 23 percent of the total, according to the World Nuclear Association.

Canberra ships the nuclear fuel to China, Japan, Taiwan and the United States but has refused to sell to India -- long a sticking point in usually cordial relations between the key trading partners.

Defence Minister Stephen Smith backed Gillard's pro-

posal, saying India had voluntarily submitted to civilian nuclear checks by international regulators and was a "rising power... which is deserving of being accorded that status".

New Delhi agreed to separate its civil and military nuclear facilities and abide by International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards under a 2005 agreement with the United States which Gillard has cited as a precedent for her decision.

Anti-nuclear campaigners said it was a "major blow to the global nuclear non-proliferation regime".

India is expected to increase its use of nuclear power from three percent of electricity generation to 40 percent by 2050, and Australia's uranium lobby believes it could be selling 2,500 tonnes a year to the Asian giant by 2030.

# Google's Chrome Web browser challenging Firefox



NEW YORK (AFP) - Google's Chrome Web browser is gaining ground on Firefox, and according to one industry tracker may even have eclipsed its open-source rival in the global market.

Chrome was the world's second favorite Web browsing program in November, bumping Firefox from that position for the first month ever, according to StatCounter Global Stats.

Google's Chrome had a 25.69 percent share of online browsing last month compared to 25.23 percent for Firefox, according to StatCounter. Firefox is managed by the non-profit Mozilla Foundation.

Microsoft's Internet Explorer (IE) remained the dominant Web browser with 40.63 percent of the global market, the findings indicated.

"We can look forward to a fascinating battle between Microsoft and Google as the pace of growth of Chrome suggests that it will become a real rival to Internet Explorer globally," said StatCounter chief executive Aodhan Cullen.

However, Internet metrics firm Net Applications on Friday reported that Firefox still clung to second place in the browser market although Chrome has steadily narrowed the gap through the year and was closing in.

Firefox was losing ground in the United States but held onto second place here with 20.09 percent of the market compared to Chrome's 10.89 percent, according to StatCounter.

IE reportedly handled 50.66 percent of US Internet browsing.



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## CALVIN and HOBBS



## CROSSWORD



## CROSSWORD

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## FLANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

## ACROSS

1. Genie's home
5. Turkish general
8. Grain holder
12. Succulent plant
13. Guy, to a New Yorker
14. Iraq's neighbor
15. Yams or succotash, on Thanksgiving
17. Two aspirin, perhaps
18. Metric unit
19. Milepost
21. Setbacks
24. Say yes
28. Les \_\_\_\_-Unis
32. Kirghiz range
33. \_\_\_\_ kwon do

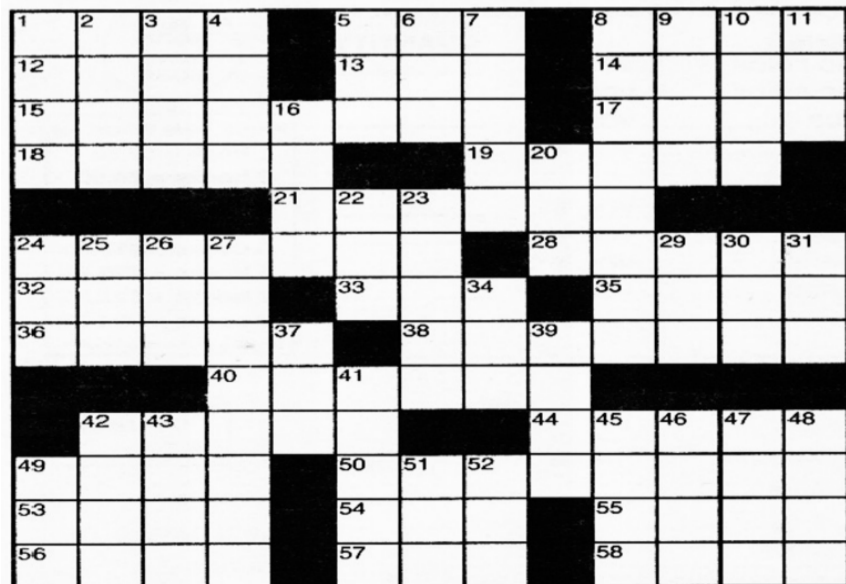
(martial art)

35. History book chapters, perhaps
36. Diver's danger
38. Moderates
40. California's motto
42. Oh! Oh! Oh! What a girl!
44. Jessica of "Broken Flowers"
49. Hart's former "ET" costar
50. Scenic route, often
53. Gambling town
54. Summer, in Arles
55. Description of some threats

## DOWN

1. Edinburgh gal
2. Got off a horse
3. Fashion
4. Look narrowly
5. Fifi's boyfriend
6. Service station purchase
7. Ben-Gay targets
8. Evade

9. Item in a golf bag
10. "The \_\_\_\_ Metro"
11. Uno, ein, or une
16. Printing direction
20. Flying formation
22. Thunder Bay's prov.
23. Say firmly
24. Bandleader Calloway
25. Music to a matador's ears
26. Bobsey girl
27. \_\_\_\_ Bob of "The Simpsons"
29. Common verb
30. Paving goo
31. Draft inits.
34. Mouse sighter's cry
37. Itself: Lat.
39. Masculine
41. Change the clock display
42. Eyes
43. Annapolis sch.
45. Like New Mexico
46. Stem swelling
47. Big bash
48. Shangri-la
49. Prefix for cycle
51. L.A. judge Lance
52. Lawn dampener

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Horacio Oduber Hospital  
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In Oranjestad:  
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582-5447  
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## Sudoku

8	2	7		6		3	1	9
6	1		7		9	2		8
4						5		
			2	4	5	8	6	3
3								1
2	8	6	9	1	3			
		1						2
5		8	6		1		9	4
7	6	2		9		1	3	5

SOLUTION

S	E	I	8	6	7	2	9	L
P	6	L	1	2	9	8	E	S
Z	8	9	L	S	E	I	P	6
L	S	P	E	I	6	9	8	2
I	2	6	9	L	8	P	S	E
E	9	8	S	P	2	6	L	I
9	L	S	2	8	I	E	6	P
8	P	2	6	E	L	S	I	9
6	I	E	P	9	S	L	2	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



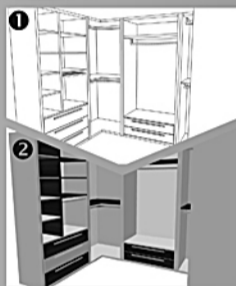
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## Finance

# Europe's crisis won't rob sparkle from Christmas



PARIS (AFP) - At the gift-wrapping counter of Paris' biggest toy store this week, parents twisted ribbon and paper around doll's houses and construction sets, adamant the crisis would not take the sparkle out of their kids' Christmas.

Even as European governments scramble to save the debt-saddled eurozone, and turn the screw on public spending with dire warnings of hardship to come, the Christmas countdown has begun in earnest in capitals across the continent.

Everywhere the twinkle of street lights, the warm glow of window displays and sweet-smelling Christmas markets are beckoning families to shelve their worries -- and those of the economy -- for a few weeks.

In the worst-affected parts of Europe the austerity-hit population will have little choice but to make sacrifices, chief among them the beleaguered Greeks.

But a string of studies suggests many Europeans are splashing out: in Germany where a report this week showed consumers shrugging off the crisis, but also in Spain, where the annual festive lottery has had a bumper year -- and in France.

"I don't give a hoot about the economy -- so long as I've got money I'm going to spend it on my grandchildren," quipped Tchao-Di Calvi, a 69-year-old retired office worker out shopping with her grown son and wife.

"Yes, I follow the news, but I say let's wait and see what happens -- why worry now?"

Her son Patrick -- more of a frugal type -- was equally relaxed, even about the prospect of the euro foundering.

"We have a strong cur-

rency, the franc. It's the others, the ones dragging us down, who should be worried."

-- "People either cut back, or opt for hedonism" --

Of the 15 European countries surveyed in a pan-European study by Deloitte last month, consumers in the Netherlands, Ireland, Italy and Portugal said they were planning to cut their Christmas spending.

But in other parts of Europe, holiday season budgets were set to inch up by 0.3 to 2.2 percent -- in France, Spain, Belgium and Luxembourg.

In Germany, Finland and Poland families planned to up festive spending by as much as 6.8 percent, according to the study based on interviews with 18,354 people.

"In times of crisis, people either ration themselves, watch every little expense. Or as we have often seen throughout history they opt for hedonism," said the French sociologist and food expert Jean-Pierre Corbeau.

By treating others people feel they are regaining control over their lives, he explained. A way of saying: Europe may be heading for a brick wall, but at least in my home, we are going to be well-fed and contented this Christmas.

### SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer

E	M	I	L	A	P	T	L	A	D
L	I	N	E	S	R	A	H	A	B
L	A	N	D	S	C	A	P	E	N
C	A	W	A	T	L	R	A	D	I
A	L	A	S	M	U	S	S	E	L
B	A	S	K	P	G	A	N	I	B
T	O	S	S	E	D	E	D	I	E
P	E	A	T	R	D	S	E	O	N
D	E	L	L	A	L	A	S		
E	R	A	G	R	E	E	N	L	A
U	S	N	E	A	R	S	E	D	E
T	E	D	S	E	E	D	A	V	Y

## Oil to hit \$250 if new Iran sanctions applied; MP

TEHRAN (AFP) - Oil prices will soar to \$250 a barrel if new US and EU sanctions being threatened against Iran are applied, the head of Iran's parliamentary economic commission predicted, Keyhan newspaper reported Sunday.

"Should America and some European countries impose sanctions on our oil and gas, then global oil prices will hit \$250 per barrel," Arsalan Fathipour was quoted as saying.

The European Union on Thursday expanded a sanctions blacklist against Iranian firms and individuals and warned it was considering extra measures against Iran's financial and oil sectors.

At the same time, the US Congress is considering legislation targeting Iran's cen-

tral bank -- the nexus for receiving payment for oil exports -- despite White House concerns that Iran could benefit if oil prices shoot up.

The mooted sanctions, coming on top of others announced on November 14 by the United States, Britain and Canada, seek to pressure Iran to halt its controversial nuclear activities.

Oil prices on Friday closed at \$100.96 a barrel for West Texas Intermediate crude, and \$109.94 per barrel for Brent North Sea crude.

The market is being influenced by the rising tensions over Iran -- OPEC's second largest producer after Saudi Arabia -- and the economic situation in the United States and Europe.

## One week to save the euro

Continued from pg 1

(AFP) -- Would that be enough to end the debt crisis and save the euro? Some expert observers think so, others fear it will be too little too late, and in any case between now and then many questions will have to be answered.

Firstly, can France and Germany even agree on the details of the reforms?

Sarkozy and Merkel have certainly sought to take charge, working so closely together that the media have taken to calling them "Merkozy" and running the risk of alienating smaller EU states wary of Franco-German domination.

But tensions are not far from the surface.

Sarkozy is smarting from becoming the junior partner, obliged to tail along in Merkel's imperial wake when she rejected French entreaties to make the ECB a lender of last resort on the model of the Fed or the Bank of England.

Merkel also dismissed the idea of pooling eurozone members' debts by issuing joint eurobonds, declaring: "Whoever has not understood that they cannot be the solution to the crisis has not understood the nature of the crisis."

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# Margarita Island offers an interesting sojourn



main pool deck at Portofino Resort



one hour boat tours through Restinga Preserve

Many visiting Aruba for extended periods or living on the island are often curious to get a glance at Latin America while in the vicinity, even just for a few days. Current political rhetoric has made some nervous about a foray to

Venezuela, but Margarita Island will prove to be a peaceful experience, with a population very dependent on tourism quite welcoming to visitors, while allowing vacationers a glimpse of the Latin American culture and

lifestyle.

Tango Tours, located in the Certified Mega Mall has some excellent packages, and will be running a 4 day/3 night charter in February 2012 from the 16 to the 19th, which is all inclusive. Vacationers are housed at Portofino, an all-inclusive beachfront resort on the northeast point of the island with very attractive grounds, several pools and lounges, 5 dining rooms where they serve their buffet breakfasts, lunches and dinners and periodic snacks. Nightly entertainment is conducted on the spacious terrace over the oceanfront dining room, all beverages and transfers are included in the price.

Margarita Island's attractions are multifold, with interesting ancient forts dating back several centuries offering spectacular vistas from their ramparts. La Galera provides a 360° panorama of the island and a particularly stunning view of the port at Juan Griego; we renamed it "Pelican Central," for obvious reasons.

La Restinga National Park is another must-do on Margarita Island. Guided boats take you through the complex of channels in this vast maze of mangrove formations. A one-hour guided tour is only 170BS, or \$21.25 for up to six people, and that is a flat rate, NOT per person. Part of the tour is stopping at a tranquil



beach where you can enjoy lunch of the freshest of seafood, or a snack of a dozen oysters just plucked from the water and shucked before your eyes for \$1. This is an authentic Caribbean experience; dining out on seafood is incredibly cheap.

For shoppers, Sambil Margarita is touted as the largest shopping mall in Latin America and is located just outside the major town of Pampatar. Those in our group that indulged in a shopping tour of the mall report they had very nice buys. Additionally, many of the handicrafts of the original inhabitants, the Guaiqueries, are still practiced, and some beautiful macramé hammocks and appliquéd and embroidered garments make wonderful and reasonably priced souvenirs and are sold at outdoor kiosks in every major tourist stop.

However, it was that abundance of tasty oysters that was the foundation of Margarita Island's attraction to the conquering Spanish, as the island was one of the world's great pearl producers to fatten the coffers of the royal house. There are plenty of street vendors offering strings of artificial pearls, but bargain hunters will find authentic pearls of all colors at unbelievable prices at certain shops certified by the government. These are not

the matched sets one pays thousands for at most jewelers, but are often uneven and some have nicks. They still have that appealing luster and an extremely attractive opales-



cence, in the black pearls particularly, which make great gifts.

Tango Tours has arrangements with respectable tour operators who arranged shopping and island tours for the group that sampled the agency's first charter to Margarita Island; we must give kudos to all the on-site personnel who did their utmost to accommodate the group and individuals. You can arrange private tours for only 4 people through them, for a very reasonable fee for the day.

By Rosalie Klein



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## Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters,

caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for

homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee.



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All

Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



## Taj Mahal Restaurant, an authentic culinary excursion



When Bharat Shah, originally from India, but now a successful businessman in California, put on a spectacular wedding in Aruba for his daughter Lisa and her groom Kalpesh, they welcomed hundreds of friends and relatives from around the world, including the "old country."

When all the wedding guests had finally arrived in Aruba, Bharat hosted an official welcome party along the shore in Palm Beach, and he chose to have it catered by Taj Mahal restaurant, he was that impressed by their cuisine.

If you like your Indian food authentic, or are looking for a new and unique dining experience, an evening at Taj Mahal will deliver a memorable meal. A seemingly endless menu offers scores of choices for fish, chicken, lamb and vegetarian dishes that are "the real deal;" discover that Indian food goes way beyond curry!

A taste-testing crew from THE MORNING NEWS chose a selection of their singular starters and two main courses with saffron rice, served family style, which provided a fine example of the versatility of their chef.

Taj Mahal's Tai Choice is a great way to start the meal and be initiated into the joys of Indian cuisine, offering a diverse selection of traditional favorites. It contains hearty portions of Pakoras, crispy vegetarian fritters, Aloo Tikki, potato cutlets, Chicken Tikka, tender chicken breast pieces seasoned just right, and shaped and seasoned ground lamb, charmingly dubbed "Sheik Kebabs." All is served on a bed of sliced onions and brought to your table on a sizzling platter, and you will want to dish those sautéed onions on to one of their tasty Indian breads called Naan, leaving behind not a single crumb. Main dishes are accompanied by a choice of rice, mixed vegetables rich with garlic, or Naan, plain, buttered, onion or garlic, and you will want to order an extra basket or two of this tasty delight, on

which you can spoon your main course, as well. Poori is crispy fried naan, and most definitely worth the extra two dollars to sample with your meal.

Our group also added an appetizer of crunchy Samosas, the Indian form of a potato knish, served with either cilantro or sweet and sour sauce. A platter of their Jhinga, large, crispy-fried shrimp in a delicate batter is ample enough to serve as a main course, though featured on their appetizer menu.

As we mentioned, main courses are served family style, in beautiful little pots that sit upon a candle to keep them warm. Our group sampled the "Mutton Saagwala," also known as "Lamb Shag" which is cooked in a thick sauce of yogurt and spinach, and the "Fish Hara Masala," moist, tender chunks of fish in a rich sauce featuring cilantro as the main flavoring. This is offered in mild, medium and very spicy, we found the medium quite spicy enough for us; it left a tingle on the tongue.

The family style service allows everyone at the table to sample a bit of this and that, and we heartily recommend you do, to truly appreciate this authentic bit of India in Aruba. Open for lunch and dinner, Taj Mahal sports a cozy and intimate air-conditioned dining room and a small outdoor terrace for those that enjoy dining al fresco. They have an exotic dessert menu to match, but our group was too stuffed to partake; there was even enough left to box up and provide a lunch next day for the lucky first person to get to it!

Located behind the Royal Plaza Mall, across from Aruba's Numismatic Museum, Taj Mahal offers a dining experience that is truly out of the ordinary; they feature an excellent and tasty selection for vegetarians too. If you are a fan of Indian food, or have been toying with trying it, Taj Mahal is the place for a very affordable dining experience and the real deal! Call 588-4494 for reservations.

## SPORTS

## Tennis: Nadal secures fifth Davis Cup title for Spain



Sevilla : (From L) Spain's King Juan Carlos celebrates with Spain's captain Albert Costa, players Rafael Nadal and David Ferrer, holding the David Cup trophy after Spain won the Davis Cup final against Argentina.

SEVILLE (AFP) - Rafael Nadal battled back from a set down to defeat brave Argentine Juan Martin del Potro and hand Spain a fifth Davis Cup title on Sunday.

In the same Olympic stadium where the world number two became the youngest Davis Cup winner in 2004, Nadal saw off Del Potro 1-6, 6-4, 6-1, 7-6 (7/0) in a little

over four hours to give the hosts an unassailable 3-1 lead.

"It was a very emotional match and I am happy for the team," said Nadal, who has now won 20 of his 21 singles rubbers for Spain, but had never before claimed the winning point.

His only loss came to Czech Jiri Novak on his debut -- as a 17-year-old -- in February

2004.

Sunday's win followed titles for Spain in 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2009, meaning all of their wins have come in the space of 11 years.

"It was an unbelievable match. These guys are great and that's why we were in the final," said Spanish captain Albert Costa.

"Rafa tried to play deeper and harder because at the start Del Potro was inside the line and hitting so hard. He fought hard so that's why we won."

Nadal and David Ferrer had won Friday's opening singles before David Nalbandian and Eduardo Schwank kept Argentina's hopes alive by beating Feliciano Lopez and Fernando Verdasco in Saturday's doubles.

It was more heartbreak for Argentina who became the first nation to lose four finals - they also lost to Spain in the final three years ago at home.

"Spain, playing on clay, as a home team -- this is one of the best teams in history," admitted Argentina captain Tito Vazquez.

Del Potro, who lost a marathon five setter to Ferrer on Friday, had gotten off to a strong start leading 6-1, 1-0 and 40-0 on his service against Nadal.

But Nadal hung on to get back into the match as Del Potro began to show signs of the fatigue from Friday's five-hour marathon playing with both of his thighs bandaged.

Despite looking dead and buried after losing his serve early in the fourth set, Del Potro managed to claw his way back into the tie with some magical shots which saw him serve for the set at 5-3.

Nadal dug deep however and the momentum swung his way again and once into the tie-break there was no looking back as he sealed victory with a winning forehand.

The victory capped the season for Nadal after a difficult six months since winning Roland Garros in June.

Spain still some way to go to match the leading winners in Davis Cup history.

The United States lead the way with 32 wins with Australia in second place with 28.



matches in honour of 'one of the most brilliant players in the history of the Brazilian national side.'

Brazilian giants Corinthians - for whom he played for six years scoring 172 goals in 297 matches and won three Sao Paulo league titles - paid a full-some tribute to him.

*continues on page 15*

## Brazilian football legend Socrates dies


SAO PAULO (AFP) - Former Brazil captain Socrates died Sunday aged 57 from an intestinal infection, a spokesperson for the Albert Einstein Hospital announced.

Socrates -- who in 1982 captained what is widely regarded as the best Brazil side never to have won the World Cup -- was taken to the hospital late Friday after suffering food poisoning.

The hospital said he had gone into septic shock and placed him on a ventilator and a dialysis machine but he was officially announced dead at 0630GMT.

He had already been hospitalised twice in August and September this year with bleeding in his digestive tract, and recognised after these incidents that he had problems with alcohol, especially during his playing days.

The Brazilian Football Federation (CBF) announced that there would be a minute's silence before all Sunday's




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# Sandusky confirms gifts to boys



NEW YORK (AFP) - Former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky, charged with sexual abuse involving eight boys over 15 years, says his superiors did not confront him with the alleged misconduct.

In his most extensive interview since the scandal surfaced, Sandusky told The New York Times this week-end he gave money and gifts to boys he met through his charity and that legendary coach Joe Paterno, fired last month after a 62-year tenure, never spoke to him about the molestation accusations.

Sandusky, free on bail ahead of a December 13 preliminary hearing, said he never sexually abused a child, adding that prosecutors had distorted his decades of dedication to helping disadvan-

taged youth.

"They have taken everything that I ever did for any young person and twisted it to say that my motives were sexual or whatever," Sandusky told the Times.

"I had kid after kid after kid who might say I was a father figure. And they just twisted that all."

Sandusky said he regularly gave money to boys, opened bank accounts for them and provided them with gifts of items that had been donated to his charity The Second Mile, including computers and golf clubs.

Prosecutors say such gifts helped him build a bond of trust with victims.

"I would call kids on the phone and work with them academically," Sandusky said.

"I tried to reward them sometimes with a little money in hand, just so that they could see something. But more often than not, I tried to set up, maybe get them to save the money, and I put it directly into a savings account established for them."

Paterno, the winningest coach in American collegiate football history, was fired last month after failing to take

greater action after being told in 2002 that Sandusky molested a boy in a locker room shower.

Sandusky told the newspaper that Paterno never spoke with him about any suspected abuse in the years after the accusation was made or about a 1998 molestation incident investigated by campus police.

"I never talked to him about either one," Sandusky said, adding that the damage to the reputations of Penn State and Paterno was not "fair."

Sandusky said his home in State College, Pennsylvania, served as a second home for many of the children in his charity and he felt able to sleep alone with children or shower with them because the relationships were family-like.

"It was, you know, almost an extended family," Sandusky said.

Sandusky also spoke of his life after the charges against him.

"I miss coaching," he said. "I miss Second Mile. I miss Second Mile kids. I miss inter-relationships with all kinds of people. 'I used to have a lot of contact with a lot of people and so that circle is diminished.'"

## Socrates dies .....

continues from page 14

"His faithful fans bid a sad farewell to the 'skinny one', we can also be thankful for having witnessed one of the best ever footballers.

"Thanks for the beautiful goals, the graceful touches, the skilful football that only Socrates possessed."

Another former Corinthians and Brazil star Ronaldo also paid homage to his compatriot. "The day has begun in sad fashion. Rest in peace Dr. Socrates," tweeted Ronaldo, who unlike Socrates did taste World Cup glory in 2002.

Simon Clifford, who was responsible for in 2004 persuading Socrates to play a game for the English Yorkshire-based non league football side he owns Garforth Town, also paid his own tribute.

"Another sad weekend for football with the passing of our friend Socrates, wonderful player & principled man who stood by his values, RIP," tweeted Clifford.

In a recent television interview, Socrates said he had considered alcohol his "companion," adding that its regular use did not affect his performance on the soccer field.

Socrates also played in the

1986 World Cup but was not fully fit and is mainly remembered for missing a penalty in the quarter-final defeat by France.

At club level he played for Brazilian giants Corinthians (1978-84) and had an unhappy sojourn in Italy with Fiorentina (1984-85).

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## Hong Kong Open ...

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Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland (R) holds up the winner's trophy after his victory in the UBS Hong Kong Open

France's Gregory Havret finished in second place on 10-under-par after a storming five-under 65, while Sweden's Peter Hanson was placed third on nine-under after closing with an even-par 70.

"I had a chance going into the last one behind Rory," said the 35-year-old Havret. "But I made a bad drive and in the end it was very hard just to make par. My putt for par was a beauty, so now I'll have some champagne and I am quite happy."

Reigning champion Ian Poulter was left to rue his luck on the greens after charging home with a bogey-free four-under 66 to finish tied for

fourth at eight under with Scotland's Richie Ramsay and Pariya Junhasavasdikul.

Quiros, who had led or shared the lead in the event for all three days coming into Sunday, faded with a three-over 73 to finish on seven under and joint seventh.

Juvic Pagunsan's six-under for the tournament was enough for 10th place and sealed him the Asian Tour Order of Merit, the first time a player from the Philippines has won the title.

"I'm really surprised," said the 33-year-old. "Everyone dreams to get an Order of Merit and I really wasn't expecting to win it this year."

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## Golf: Rory McIlroy wins Hong Kong Open

HONG KONG (AFP) - World number two Rory McIlroy sealed the US\$2.75 million UBS Hong Kong Open Sunday by holing a birdie chip from a bunker on the last, keeping alive his slim hopes of denying Luke Donald an

historic Order of Merit double.

"I think that's the most excited I've ever been on a golf course," said the 22-year-old. "It was just incredible to see the ball drop and realise that I had won this tournament."

A final-round 65 clinched a two-stroke victory for the Northern Irishman and the winner's cheque of \$458,330 means the US Open champion still has a chance of overtaking current Race to Dubai leader Donald with victory at

the season-ending Dubai World Championship next week.

McIlroy has collected 3,066,605 euros (\$4,110,477) for the season to world number one-ranked Donald's 3,856,394 euros. The event in Dubai is worth just over 930,000 euros to the winner.

Englishman Donald, who has already won the US PGA Tour money list, skipped the Hong Kong event as did Germany's Martin Kaymer, who had been placed second in the Race to Dubai until McIlroy's heroics on Sunday.

"Everything's dependent on Luke because he has got such a big lead but that was one of my intentions going out today, to win this tournament to keep myself in with a shout next week," said McIlroy.

"Another bit of motivation was I woke up this morning and saw Lee Westwood had shot 62 at the event in Sun City (South Africa) and I thought I really needed to win to stay about him in the world rankings.

"So it was nice to be able to do both."

McIlroy had started the final round three strokes behind overnight leader Alvaro Quiros of Spain, but five birdies over the course -- three coming while the pressure was building in the run-in to the clubhouse -- ensured victory for a player who had finished runner-up here in both

2008 and 2009.

"It feels like it has been a long time coming," he said.

"I played my first Hong Kong Open in 2007 and I felt like it owed me something after losing the playoff (to Taiwan's Lin Wen-Tang) in 2008. To get my hands on this trophy and to win this tournament is very special."

After finding the sand next to the 18th green with his approach shot, McIlroy blasted up, out and into the hole to thunderous applause while pumping his fists in celebration.

He had earlier announced via Twitter that he had brushed off the ailment that had been bothering him all week thanks to "11.5 hours sleep and a 5km run" and he returned shortly after finishing his round to declare to his followers: "Winner winner chicken dinner".

"I've not been feeling well all week so I went down this morning and got a really good sweat up," said McIlroy. "It seemed to work."

McIlroy had certainly been looking fragile over the first three days of this event -- which is co-sanctioned by both the European and Asian Tours -- but his stamina was never in doubt today and a birdie on the par-five second set him off in just the right mood.

*continues on page 15*



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